

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO USDEL DEAUVILLE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23202

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, PAK, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTS ON THE FRENCH/PAKISTAN NUCLEAR
PLANT DEAL

REF: PARIS 23116

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FRENCH PRESS WITH RARE EXCEPTIONS
TOOK A LINE SUGGESTING THAT FRANCE WAS BEING ASKED TO
SUBMIT TO EXPRESSIONS OF AMERICAN WILLFULNESS. ALMOST
ALL NEWSPAPERS STRESSED THE EXTENT TO WHICH INTERNAL U.S.
POLITICS PLAYED A ROLE IN THE REARTICULATION OF THE
U.S. POSITION. PC DAILY L'HUMANITE ALSO USED THE INCI-
DENT TO CRITICIZE THE ELYSEE FOR "EMBARRASSED SILENCE."
END SUMMARY.

2. LES ECHOS - OBJECTIVE REPORTING: GIVING FAIR TREAT-
MENT TO THE SECRETARY'S LAHORE PRESS CONFERENCE, LES
ECHOS NOTED THAT "INFORMED LEVELS IN PARIS HAVE FEARED
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FOR SOME TIME THAT THE PAKISTANI CONTRACT . . . WOULD

NOT BE SIGNED." NOTING THAT THE SCENARIO FOR THE PAKISTAN CASE WAS "EFFECTIVELY THE SAME AS FOR A SIMILAR CONTRACT CONCLUDED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WITH SOUTH KOREA," THE ARTICLE SAID THAT BOTH CASES DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. LAYING HEAVY STRESS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS HAD BEEN OCCASIONED BY HIS "PREOCCUPATION" WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, LES ECHOS ALSO NOTED (AND WAS THE SOLE NEWSPAPER TO DO SO) THAT "A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HAD ON JUNE 16 ADOPTED A TEXT CALLING FOR ENDING ALL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO COUNTRIES NOT WISHING TO CONFORM TO THE WILL OF THE U.S. TO AVOID THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY." LES ECHOS WENT ON TO NOTE THAT "SPECIALISTS ARE RATHER SKEPTICAL AS TO THE NECESSITY FOR PAKISTAN OF ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR RECYCLING PLANT FOR THE SOLE REASON OF FURNISHING ONE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. IT IS THUS UNLIKELY THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL REACT THIS TIME AROUND."

3. CRYING CROCODILE TEARS FOR PAKISTAN: BOTH THE MORNING FIGARO AND THE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS (QP) FEATURED THE PAKISTANI REFUSAL TO CEDE TO THE SECRETARY'S URGINGS. THE QP NOTED THAT "THIS ABRUPT DECISION ON THE PART OF THE U.S. DOES NOT MEAN . . . THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD ABANDON ALL HOPE OF DOING BUSINESS WITH FRANCE" AND WENT ON TO REPORT THE SECRETARY'S THOUGHT THAT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF THE PAKISTAN INSTALLATION, ON THE MODEL OF THAT ALREADY PLANNED FOR IRAN MIGHT WELL BE A SOLUTION. IN ADDITION THE QP REPORTED THAT THE U.S. CHARGE IN PARIS HAD BEEN "SUMMONED" TO THE QUAI ON AUGUST 9 TO EXPLAIN THE SECRETARY'S DECLARATIONS. ON THAT STORY THE QP PEGGED A REPORT DEALING WITH THE THREE SEPARATE SAFEGUARD ACCORDS PASSED BY THE FRENCH WITH THE PAKISTANIS AND WITH THE IAEA. ALONG WITH THE FRONT PAGE NOTE THAT "HENRY IS GOOD FOR YOU" THE QP ALSO NOTED A DECLARATION BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT THAT "MR. KISSINGER'S THREATS WILL LEAD FRENCHMEN TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY FOR A VIGILANT DEFENSE OF THEIR INTERESTS." THE MORNING FIGARO, WHICH DEVOTED SURPRISINGLY LITTLE SPACE TO THE STORY, LED WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. "SEEMED MORE AND MORE DESIROUS OF RESERVING TO ITSELF THE RIGHT OF INTERVENTION IN NUCLEAR MARKETS. NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY, IN RESPONDING TO SENATOR RIBICOFF, HAD CONFIRMED THAT INDIA PROBABLY HAD USED HEAVY WATER FURNISHED BY THE U.S. TO MAKE ITS FIRST ATOMIC BOMB IN 1974, FIGARO LINKED THE PAKISTANI EFFORT AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO INCREASE ITS CREDIBILITY.

4. THE HARD LINERS: FOR THE PCF'S L'HUMANITE, THE
SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS WERE PLACED IN THE CONTEXT OF

-- THE AMERICAN DESIRE TO PUT 80 TO 100 A-7 AIR-
CRAFT ON INDIA'S BORDERS;

-- ECONOMIC COMPETITION. "IN THE BITTER COMPETI-
TION IN WHICH ARE ENGAGED THE NUCLEAR TRUSTS,

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THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE IS OBLIGED TO
RENDER THOSE SERVICES WHICH ARE EXPECTED BY
AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN INTERESTED BY NEW MARKETS";

-- U.S. INTERNAL POLITICS: "THE ADMINISTRATION RE-
QUIRES EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT A TIME WHEN THE DEMOCRATS
ARE PREPARING FOR THEIR ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN
A NUMBER OF FOREIGN POLICY IDEAS WHICH
CORRESPOND TO THE NEW ISOLATIONISM BORN OF THE
FAILURES IN VIET NAM, CAMBODIA, AND ANGOLA . ."

MOST BITTER OF ALL WAS L'AUORE WHICH, AFTER HAVING
ENGAGED IN A FEW PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE SECRETARY SAID
OF THE PUBLIC ASPECT OF THE PROCEEDINGS, "IT IS NOT VERY
FRIENDLY TOWARD TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. IT IS FRANKLY
HUMILIATING FOR TWO SOVEREIGN POWERS." AFTER SAYING
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THAT THE PLUTONIUM PRODUCED BY A REPROCESSING PLANT CAN
ONLY BE USED TO MANUFACTURE BOMBS, THE AUORE COMMENTED
ON THE REAL BASIS OF ITS CONCERN: "BY WHAT RIGHT DOES
THE U.S., IN ACCORD ON THIS POINT WITH THE SOVIET UNION,
PUT ALL OF ITS WEIGHT INTO A DELAYING ACTION WHICH WILL
NECESSARILY BE LOST?" ASSUMING THAT A CONTRACT WILL BE
WRITTEN FOR THE PLANT, AUORE NOTES THAT THE GOF TOOK
AIL OF THE PRECAUTIONS WHICH WERE IMPLIED AFTER THE
SOUTH KOREAN AFFAIR AND THEREFORE PERHAPS HAD THE RIGHT
TO CONTINUE ITS CURRENT COURSE OF ACTION. ENDING ON A
MORE REALISTIC NOTE, L'AUORE SAID THAT "WE ARE ENGAGED
IN A DANGEROUS WORLD WHERE ALL OUR ACTIONS CAN HAVE
INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES . . . IN A WORLD BORN IN THIS
SAME MONTH OF AUGUST 31 YEARS AGO. THAT WAS HIROSHIMA".

5. POLITICAL REACTION: AS REPORTED BY LE MONDE, THE
FRENCH SOCIALISTS NOTED THEIR "GREATEST VIGILANCE" WITH
RESPECT TO THE PROPOSITION OF CREATING A REPROCESSING
PLANT IN PAKISTAN BUT ALSO ARGUED THAT "MR. KISSINGER
WISHED, IN THE LAST MONTH OF HIS REIGN, TO REAFFIRM THE
AMERICAN HEGEMONY." THE LEFT RADICALS (MRG) WERE EVEN
LESS RESTRAINED AND ARGUED THAT AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN
FRANCE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAD ONCE MORE BEEN
MANIFESTED WITHOUT SHAME. NOTING THAT MINISTER D'ORNANO
HAD GONE TO WELCOME THE SECRETARY TO FRANCE, THE MRG
EXPRESSED ITS HOPE THAT "THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL FIND
OTHER WAYS TO PROTEST AGAINST SUCH ABUSES."

6. LE MONDE, IN ISSUE DATED AUGUST 10, NOTED THE OUT-
LINES OF A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE BY WHICH THE U.S. WOULD
"FAVORABIY CONSIDER" THE PAKISTANI REQUEST FOR AN A-7 BUY
WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY "OFFERING, EVENTUALLY, NUCLEAR PRO-
TECTION (TO PAKISTAN)." IN RETURN, THE GOF WOULD,
ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, TAKE NOTE OF THE AMERICAN DESIRE
FOR A REINFORCEMENT OF THE GUARANTEES AGAINST HARMFUL
USE OF THE REPROCESSED FUEL.

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